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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRATISLAVA 000621

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: EU CHINA ARMS EMBARGO: JAPANESE DECLINE; SLOVAKS
LOOKING TO OTHER EU STATES

REF: (A) STATE 137493 (B) PARIS 04843

CLASSIFIED BY: CHARGE ROBERT E. HURLBERT FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY. JAPANESE POLOFFS IN BRATISLAVA DECLINED TO DEMARCHE WITH U.S. POLOFF REGARDING THE EU ARMS EMBARGO ON CHINA. THE SLOVAKS PRESENTED THEMSELVES AS NON-PLAYERS IN AN EU DEBATE, NOTING THAT "IMPORTANT EU MEMBERS" WILL MAKE THE DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) PER REFTTEL A, POLOFF CONTACTED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BRATISLAVA ON 25 JUNE. THE JAPANESE NOTED TOKYO CONSIDERED IT INAPPROPRIATE TO DELIVER A JOINT DEMARCHE. THEY EMPHASIZED JAPAN STILL AGREES WITH THE U.S. POSITION, BUT THEY DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE GANGING UP ON THE EUROPEANS AGAINST CHINA, CITING THE SAME REASONS AS IN REFTTEL B.

3. (C) KAROL MISTRIK, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE OSCE AND DISARMAENT, MFA, SAID ON JUNE 25 THAT SLOVAKIA IS "FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION" ON THE EU ARMS EMBARGO ON CHINA. SLOVAKIA IS "UNABLE TO SUPPORT OR NOT SUPPORT" THE U.S. POSITION, SINCE IMPORTANT EU MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY PROPOSING TO LIFT THE EMBARGO. HE NOTED THE EU IS A "MASTER OF COMPROMISE" AND WILL "FIND A SOLUTION." THE EU IS WORKING ON EXPORT CONTROLS AND WILL NOT DO ANYTHING TO THREATEN THE TRANS-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. HE CONSIDERED THE EU EXPORT CONTROLS STRIDENT AND RESPONSIBLE. (NOTE: SLOVAKIA WILL FOLLOW THE DECISION REACHED BY THE FRENCH, GERMANS, AND BRITISH. END NOTE.)

4. (C) MISTRIK COMMENTED ON THE U.S. POSITION PRESENTED IN TALKING POINTS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE POSITION OF MORE RESTRICTIVE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, BUT HE DID NOT FIND THE PROHIBITION OF U.S. PROCUREMENT OF EU DEFENSE MATERIALS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE U.S. CONCERN.

HURLBERT

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